(d) if so, details in this regard; and

(e) the measures proposed to be taken to ensure that the colleges authorities do not compromise on the quality of education for want of adequate teaching staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The qualifications and experience, in brief, prescribed by the All India Council for Techinal Education (AICTE) for Professor and Against Professor for Engineering and Technology programmes are as under:

Professor: Ph.D degree with first class at Bachelor's or Master's level in the appropriate branch of Engineering/Technology with 10 years experience in Teaching/Industry/Research our of which 5 years must be at the level of Assistant Professor and /or equivalent.

Assistant Professor: Ph.D. degree with first class at Bachelor's or Master's level in the appropriate branch of Engineering/Technology with 2 years experience in Teaching/Industry/Research at the level of Lecturer or equivalent.

Further details are available on AICTE's website www.aicte.ernet.in.

(c) and (d) There is a shortage of qualified teaching staff in existing engineerings colleges particularly in the disciplines of Computer Science & Engineering, Information Technology, Electronic & Communication Engineering and Bio-Technology etc.

(e) AICTE has several steps to increase the supply of faculty and also improve skills of existing faculty through various faculty development schemes with a view to improve the supply of skilled faculty.

Appointment of teachers under SSA

2785. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are concerned with the slow pace of teachers' appointments in the State unde the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan;

(b) whether Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Punjab and Rajasthan are among those States having made no headway in this direction; and

(c) whether at the national level only 41 percent of teachers' requirements has been met under SSA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) At the national level 64% of the teacher post sanctioned under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) so far, have been filled. Teachers appointed under the SSA, in Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh & West Bengal so far, are 1911, 32894, 1868, 49723 and 16148 respectively.

Un Population Fund Report

2786.SHRI B.K.HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to State:

(a) whether India has studied the recently released UN Population Fund Report on the State of World Population 2005 ranking India at a lowly four, preceded by Niger, Congo and Afghanistan in the matter of girls getting married before they turn 18;

(b) whether the report says that more than 50 per cent of the India girls are married before they turn 18;

(c) whether the report lays emphasis on the negative impact of child marriage on reproductive health; and

(d) whether these large number of child marriages are within the legal framework?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH):

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir. The legal are of marriage in India as per Child Marriage (Restraint) Act is 18 years. The Goverment has already taken a strict view of the problem and has taken several steps to eliminate this social evil of child marriages from the country. Such as,

- State Goverments have been asked for strict implementation of child Marriage (Restraint) Act, 1929.
- State Goverments have been asked to take necessary measures to prevent child marriages in their States.